General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 March 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/55/602/Add.2 and Corr.1)*]

55/98. Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which is annexed to that resolution,

Reiterating the importance of the Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

Taking note of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2000/61 of 26 April 2000[1] to request the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of three years, a special representative who shall report on the situation of human rights defenders in all parts of the world and on possible means to enhance their protection in full compliance with the Declaration,

Welcoming the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative on human rights defenders,

Noting with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms are facing threats, harassment and insecurity as a result of those activities,

1. *Calls upon* all States to promote and give effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

2. *Invites* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Representative on human rights defenders in fulfilling her mandate;

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

3. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Representative in the implementation of her programme of activities;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders;[2]

5. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the report to be prepared by the Special Representative pursuant to Commission resolution 2000/61;

6. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

85th plenary meeting
4 December 2000

[2] A/55/292.